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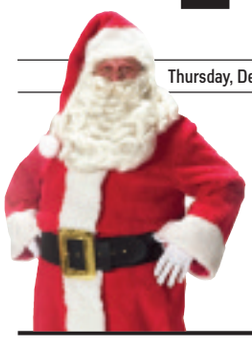

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www.northantshp.co.uk

Club vows to give keeper a good send-off

BY LAWRENCE JOHN
lawrence.john@HPnorthants.co.uk

A MEMORIAL fund has been set up for Rushden & Diamonds goalkeeper Dale Roberts who died last week.

The 24-year-old, who is believed to have taken his own life, was found dead last Tuesday at his home in Higham Ferrers.

An inquest was opened and adjourned last Friday with the cause of death given as asphyxia.

Chairman of the Blue Square Bet Premier side, Gary Calder, set up the fund with the full support of Dale's parents.

Mr Calder said: "Due to the circumstances when Dale passed away, all insurances are null and void.

"To assist Dale's parents with the finances to give him the send off he deserves, Rushden & Diamonds Football Club feel it only right and proper to set up this fund in his memory."

Speaking to the Herald & Post, Mr Calder described Dale's death as a 'nightmare for everyone'.

He said: "When you get a 24-year-old England C international who is an integral part of the squad - it beggars belief.

Dale Roberts

"It is something you have to deal with and his parents have been down here on numerous occasions.

"The nature of how he died is irrelevant.

"You had a 24-year-old lad with all his life in front of him and this is very tragic.

"I would say Diamonds fans have reacted in the same way football fans have across the country.

"We have had texts and emails from Premier League clubs as well as local clubs.

"As I have said previously, football can sometimes have a black stigma attached to it but in times of tragedy it comes together as a community and shows a family feeling.

"Everything bonds together accordingly, especially in a tragedy like this.

"It was my decision (to set up the memorial fund).

"I spoke to his parents to make sure they felt comfortable.

"It is a tragic way he lost his life and it is only right and proper to assist his family so he can be sent off in the way he deserves."

Donations can be given by either sending a cheque made payable to The Dale Roberts' Memorial Fund to: Rushden & Diamonds FC, Nene Park, Diamond Way, Irthlingborough, Northants, NN9 5QF.

People can also go into any Barclays Bank and donate to the fund, with the following account details:

The Dale Roberts' Memorial Fund, Barclays Bank, Sort Code 20-95-61, Account Number 20162507.

Let it snow, let it snow

THE wintry conditions continued this week with more snowfall. Northampton came to a stand-still in rush hour yesterday morning after more of the white stuff fell during the early hours.

For more on the weather and more pictures, see page 2.

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NORTHAMPTONSHIRE HIT BY HEAVY SNOW

County's true grit to keep roads moving

BY JONATHAN REILLY
jonathan.reilly@HPnorthants.co.uk

THIS area is coping with the weather – that is the message from Northamptonshire County Council.

With several inches of snow in some parts of the county and arctic conditions throughout, the authority has been well prepared for the big freeze and still has 6,000 tonnes of grit left in its stocks.

Figures released by the Tax Payers' Alliance show that many authorities have actually bought less grit than last year but that is not the case in Northamptonshire.

The council made sure it had 12,000 tonnes of salt before the cold spell, up 1,000 tonnes from last year. The council bought as much salt as its depot could handle.

It has also assured people that they are constantly topping up the salt stocks and are not in danger of running out, as they still have at least a month's supply.

A council spokesman said: "After two of the coldest and snowiest winters in decades the authority has refined its practices and introduced some new measures for this winter.

"These include a new type of sugar-coated salt which can be used more sparingly and reduces corrosion to vehicles and increased 'resilience' levels of salt storage – by increasing both the maximum level held in stock and the minimum level prior to re-order.

"A 50/50 salt/sand mixture to be used in snowy conditions, also helps to preserve stocks."

The council was using gritting salt on the roads yesterday, but has warned it was not the remedy for heavy snow.

When the area was hit by a large snow fall at 6am the crews were immediately sent out with ploughs to clear routes.

This occurred at the same time as the rush hour which meant traffic movement was slow. The A45 Upton Way and Danes Camp Way was closed for a short period of time to allow the gritters to get through.

HARD WORK: A gritter on the streets

SWAN LAKE: In Abington

BUZZARD: In Abington

SPREADING: Gritters out

For more snow photos log on to our website www.northantshp.co.uk

FAMILIAR SCENE: A Duston street covered in snow

A nightmare journey after Xmas shopping

IT was snow joke for a Northampton family who got caught in the bad weather on Saturday.

Emma Beard, 27, was in Milton Keynes with some of her family doing Christmas shopping when the snow hit.

When they went into the shopping centre everything was fine but one-and-a-half-hours later it wasn't.

In the time she was inside it had snowed heavily and suddenly it was chaotic on the roads as the traffic built up.

Emma said: "I was Christmas shopping in Milton Keynes and my car broke down.

"My mum, Jacci, was stuck on the M1 for six-and-a-half-hours (trying to get back to Northampton) and she had set off ten minutes before we were due to leave.

"I had to wait for four-and-a-half-hours for the breakdown man to come.

"It then took one-and-a-half hours to get from Milton Keynes to my brother, James, in Stony Stratford."

Warning on the anniversary of lake men's tragic deaths

POLICE have issued a warning about the importance of staying safe around frozen water.

Parents of young children are reminded of the considerable associated risks, especially given the exceptional severity of the current weather conditions.

This time of the month is the anniversary of the deaths of the men who were believed to have been attempting to rescue a dog, at Brightwell Lakes, Ringstead, on December 21 last year and died.

Chief Inspector Gary Ashton of Wellingborough Safer Community Team said: "The severe weather conditions have again resulted in most lakes and ponds in the county being frozen over and we strongly advise people to avoid going out onto the ice.

"The tragic deaths last year are unfortunately very real proof of how dangerous and potentially fatal going on to the ice can be."

Chief fire officer Martyn Emberson added: "A frozen lake or waterway may look safe but you can't tell whether the ice is thick enough to hold your weight."

EVERY ONE A STAR: Rocking Horse Nursery pupils in their nativity play costumes

Tots' nativity play raises more than £400 for nursery

CHILDREN from the Rocking Horse Nursery took part in a charity nativity play to raise money for the centre.

The nursery in Greens Norton managed to raise more than £400 towards new computer equipment by putting on the traditional Christmas tale.

Vicky Poole, owner of the nursery said: "The nativity was fantastic and I'm really proud of the children, who were all aged under four.

"To have raised £436 towards our new computers has really helped too, and I think everyone really enjoyed themselves."

Cash cuts set to bite – but council tax is frozen

BY JONATHAN REILLY
jonathan.reilly@HPnorthants.co.uk

NORTHAMPTON Borough Council has revealed that there will not be an increase in council tax next year.

With it receiving less money from Central Government, the authority has outlined its proposed budget for next year.

As well as the freeze in council tax, the council is planning on saving money by outsourcing waste collection, recycling and environmental services and creating a charitable trust to run leisure centres, to prevent closures.

The closing of Cliftonville House will also cut office costs.

Council leader Cllr Brian Hoare said: "Every year, since the Liberal Democrats took control in 2007, the council has been faced with cuts in spending. The recession and rising costs has meant that the council has had to cut its cloth accordingly.

"This year, we knew it would be particularly difficult but it is no surprise. We knew over a year ago that whatever colour of the Government, we would face a big cut in our grant and we have been planning for it by looking at key services like waste collection and leisure centres and thinking imaginatively about new ways of providing them.

"It takes time to plan these changes and cabinet decided to accelerate the improvement process when the recession was biting in 2008.

"We now know that without that forward thinking, this year the council would be facing closures, cuts and higher charges, just what is happening on the Conservative-controlled county council."

Cllr David Perkins, responsible for council finance, said: "As a council we are continuing to plan ahead.

"We are going to invest in delivering more efficient services, which means we are proposing a balanced budget not just for next year, but for the following year and for the year after that.

"Other councils are savagely cutting services and are still struggling to balance their budget because they did not sort out their finances in the way that Northampton has.

"This has been a tough budget in difficult circumstances, but three years of hard work creating a more effective and efficient council has led to us being able to weather the unprecedented financial storm that has been inflicted on local government."

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That was the year that was

HERE'S a look at what has made the headlines in Northamptonshire from January to June this year.

Mike Prescod (February)

Alan Piggot (April)

Michael Ellis MP (June)

JANUARY

■ There was an outcry after elderly couple Derek and Jean Randall were found dead in their house in Northampton on January 7. Northamptonshire County Council announced a Serious Case Review into the deaths.
■ The work on Silverstone Race Circuit was well underway with 200 people working on the track to bring it in line with new safety regulations. Bosses hoped the improvements would make the experience better for the fans.
■ Chief executive of Wellingborough Council Lyn Martin-Benson announced she would leave her post in June.
■ Residents were called on by Wellingborough Council to put forward their ideas to revamp the town's market.

FEBRUARY

■ Northamptonshire County Council was left £2.5 million short after mis-calculating the number of people who should pay council tax. With the tax already increasing by 3.5 per cent the council was forced to dig into its reserves to plug the gap.
■ County Councillor Heather Smith revealed it would cost more than £20 million to fix roads in Northants following successive cold winters. She was fighting for more cash after it emerged there was to be a £300,000 cut to the county's winter road maintenance allowance.
■ Wellingborough's first African/Caribbean Mayor Mike Prescod died.

MARCH

■ Police hailed a major crackdown on organised crime which led to six men being sent to prison. Carl Burgess, Raymond Tauchert, Mark Duncan, Wayne Riley, Lloyd Sherlock and Delroy Raymond, were all jailed for between four and 15 years for drug related offences.
■ Brian Binley, MP for Northampton South, slammed Legal and General for not making their plans for the town centre public. The politician was critical of the company and Northampton Borough Council for not disclosing the whole project. The council offered to meet the MP to talk over the proposals.
■ The Fairtrade Wellingborough Campaign put in its bid to gain Fairtrade Status.

APRIL

■ Plans for a floating restaurant in Northampton near to a park used for homosexual social networking came under fire by the gay community. The proposed 23 metre restaurant would overlook Midsummer Meadow and the Northants Lesbian Gay and Bisexual Alliance believed if built, would displace the activities elsewhere.
■ Northampton private hire company Amber Cars came to the rescue of local businessmen who were affected by the Icelandic volcanic eruption which saw flights grounded. The regular customers paid £1,200 to be driven to Geneva. The flight restrictions were lifted just in time for Wellingborough couple Alan and Tracie Piggot to get to their son's wedding in South Korea.
■ Mayor of Wellingborough, Cllr Peter Morrall, handed out the first ever Herald & Post Young Citizens' awards to 34 young people from Wellingborough.

MAY

■ The county turned blue, at least in the political sense, as Michael Ellis beat Sally Keeble to become MP for Northampton North. Brian Binley retained his seat in Northampton South, while Andrea Leadsom was elected the representative for South Northamptonshire. Peter Bone held the Wellingborough & Rushden seat in the general election.
Meanwhile at Parliament, without an absolute majority the Conservatives entered into a historic coalition with the Liberal Democrats.
■ A report revealed that Northamptonshire Police had more civilian staff than police officers. The document published by the Police Federation showed the Force to have 120 per cent more civilian staff than ten years ago. The Force believed that they had the right balance between civvies and bobbies on the beat.
■ A blaze ripped through Wellingborough Medical Centre in Gold Street. Isebrook Hospital was used as a temporary location.

JUNE

■ The county council was accused of robbing Peter to pay Paul over plans to increase charges of adult social services. The increases would affect Meals on Wheels and transport for the elderly, but the council hoped to raise £600,000 from the increases.
■ The county council was rapped by the unions for spending £100,000 on a campaign to find out what people want from the authority. In the times of austerity the critics felt that it was a waste of money and did not deliver any new information.
The council argued that given the amount that would be saved from using the information it represented value for money.

See next week's H&P for a round-up of July to December

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Christmas message

from Major Ron Smith from the Salvation Army

THE 'Argos' catalogue in our house is well and truly 'thumbed through'. The pages are well turned and drop open easily to certain sections.

I guess that we have heard the phrase "for Christmas, I would like . . ." many times and each time the list changes, thankfully we're almost there, but what would you like for Christmas?

What present would you really love to receive?

I guess that most of us set our sights fairly low.

How could we expect friends and relatives to buy the presents we would really love to have?

I certainly wouldn't say 'no' to receiving a luxury car with all the gadgets or the latest model television with everything built in.

Most of us would feel extremely grateful and very humbled at being loved so much that we were offered such lavish gifts.

Strange as it may seem, people turn down or dispose of the presents they've received. After Christmas you will see list upon list of gifts being offered for sale in the small ads column of the papers.

At Christmas we celebrate God's Gift of His Son, Jesus.

God loves us so much that He was prepared to enter this world as a child and eventually to suffer death on a cross.

In His suffering Jesus shared in all the pain and heartache that we face, and possibly more so because His suffering was caused by our lack of love.

Yet God still loves you.

Sadly, for many people Jesus is just another unwanted Christmas present, even though He is God's greatest gift to any individual.

This year may God's love touch your heart and life so that you can understand what a great and valuable gift has been given to you.

I wish for you a very happy Christmas, made even better because you have personally accepted God's Christmas Gift, think on this, Christmas starts with Christ, and He is the most valuable gift that you can accept.

CCTV catches diesel thief driver in the act

BY JULIA SUTTON
news@HPnorthants.co.uk

A THIEVING lorry driver who stole fuel so he could get to work in Northants from his home near Barnsley was caught after his company got an anonymous tip-off.

Brian Tunilla, 49, was put under CCTV surveillance and was followed by security staff from Fords.

When he was stopped a 25-litre fuel container was found in his car.

On Monday the former soldier of Saffron Close, Wombwell, pleaded guilty to theft by an employee.

Northampton Crown Court heard he stole £2,000 of fuel at the rate of about £60 a week. Prosecutor Hena Vissian said Tunilla had been given a company fuel card to pay for diesel when he made deliveries for Ford in Daventry but also filled up containers for his own personal use.

She said: "He was seen to put empty containers from his car into the lorry in the morning, fill up the vehicle with fuel but also the four containers which were put into his car at the end of the day.

"When he was challenged a 25-litre container was found in his car."

Defence barrister Robert Sandford said Tunilla served as a gunner in the Royal Artillery for 12 years.

He said: "This was done to ease the burden of the fuel costs of travelling to and from work in Daventry - he lives in Barnsley. It was not sold on and it was not to fund a lavish lifestyle.

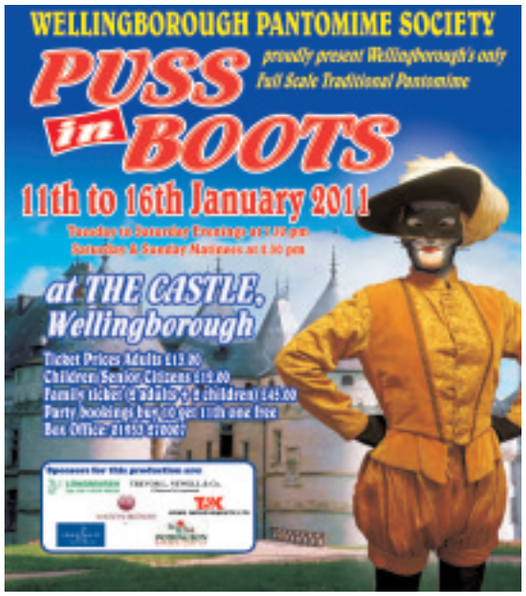
"This is his first blemish on his character."

Judge Richard Bray passed a 35 week jail sentence suspended for two years and ordered him to pay £200 costs.

He said he must also pay £2,076 compensation.

Judge Bray added: "This is a serious matter, not simply because you were an employee and on a regular basis stole their diesel but because it was over quite an extended period of time."

He said he suspended the sentence because he had served his country and was of previous good character.



The tree of gifts

A CHRISTMAS present all the way from Scotland to Wellingborough signified the spirit of giving at this time of year.

The Swansgate Shopping Centre once again supported the Home-Start charity with its Giving Tree appeal.

An assortment of 200 toys were collected with one of the gifts coming all the way from a woman in Buckie, Scotland.

She had been visiting family in the area when she chose a tag from the tree and posted the toy from Scotland.

Centre manager, Lindsay Tickner, said: "The Swansgate would like to say a big thank you to all our shoppers who supported The Giving Tree this year."

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Fifty copped in drink-drive campaign

FIFTY-ONE people were arrested in the first two weeks of Northamptonshire Police's drink-drive campaign.

This is a slight increase when compared to the same period of the 2009 campaign.

The figures show:

■ Of the 51 people arrested, 33 have been charged and investigations continue on the others

■ One of the arrests made the 'morning after' drinking

■ Of the 51 arrested, 14 are aged between 17 and 24

■ Nine of the 17-24 year olds have been charged and investigations continue on the others

■ None of the arrests for 17-24 year olds were made the morning after

At this stage in 2009, it showed:

■ Forty-seven people had been arrested and 38 had been charged

■ One arrest was made the morning after and of the 47 people arrested, 17 were aged between 17 and 24

■ Thirteen of the 17-24 year olds had been charged

■ One arrest for 17-24 year olds was made the morning after

Chief inspector Sean Bell said: ""The party season is in full flow and our officers are out on the roads carrying out checks at all times of the day and night.

"Take time to plan how you're getting home."

Have a think before taking another sip. . .

BY LAWRENCE JOHN
lawrence.john@HPnorthants.co.uk

EXCESSIVE drinking this Christmas could mean you end up spending the night in a hospital bed or police cell.

That's the message from NHS Northamptonshire and Northamptonshire Police, who are both promoting safe drinking in the run-up to the festive period.

Since April 2009, there have been 3,102 alcohol related admissions to Accident and Emergency departments in Northamptonshire, while during the same period, Northamptonshire Police

dealt with 8,474 alcohol-related crimes.

Community safety chief inspector Dave Lawson, said: "Drinking to excess can quickly wipe the smile off your face and also those of others in close proximity to anyone behaving in a loud, drunken or anti-social manner.

"Binge drinking can prove destructive on many levels but at least give this some sobering thought before you head out."

NHS Northamptonshire launched an alcohol awareness campaign in July 2010 with websites aimed at heavy drinkers, aged 35 plus, www.minesahalf.com and young people, www.likeadrink.com.

In addition, staff have been visiting pubs, colleges and universities to promote safe and sensible drinking and to make people more aware of the consequences.

High-speed rail plan 'just wrong' says MP

UPSET: Andrea Leadsom MP

BY JONATHAN REILLY
jonathan.reilly@HPnorthants.co.uk

AN MP from Northamptonshire has said she feels 'bruised' over plans to build a high-speed rail network through the county.

Andrea Leadsom, MP for South Northamptonshire, believes the Government's proposal to run the high-speed line, which would connect London, Heathrow and the Midlands, through the south of the county will do more damage than good.

"I'm still feeling very bruised about the consultation," said Mrs Leadsom.

"I had hoped that there would be something in the proposals as to whether we even need a 250 mile an hour train line that can only go in a straight line."

In October, Mrs Leadsom helped to organise a meeting in Portcullis House, London with campaigners, politicians and members of the Government to discuss the plans.

During the meeting, one of the counter-proposals made to Transport minister Phillip Hammond was to build the line close to existing motorways such as the M1 and M40.

However, although the planned route is further from Mixbury, Brackley and Greatworth, it still runs near several villages in the south of the county.

Mrs Leadsom said: "Phillip Hammond said he did consult our proposition and he did carefully consider it but he has gone with nearly the original proposals.

"We will now re-group and sit down with all of the action groups. I understand that we need to improve our transport network and increase capacity but this is not the way to do it.

"This is just wrong."

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School is putting its past behind it

STAFF and pupils at The Malcolm Arnold Academy in Trinity Avenue, Northampton, have managed to create a new educational ethos in four months. The former Unity College closed down after it had fallen into special measures but re-opened in September under its new guise. It is now run by the David Ross Foundation, which was set up by the multi-millionaire founder of the Carphone Warehouse. To find out about this new start, **LAWRENCE JOHN** paid it a visit.

CHANGE: Philip Cantwell

PRINCIPAL Philip Cantwell is proud of the change of pace at The Malcolm Arnold Academy.

He speaks with great satisfaction in the way staff and pupils not only accepted the changes but how readily parents had gone along with it all.

The alterations Mr Cantwell spoke of didn't seem radical, echoing a traditional way of educating but with a 21st century feel.

They include the length of the day, having a strict behavioural code and re-instating a uniform.

He spoke about creating an atmosphere like a business environment in which pupils could drive forward their own learning.

Mr Cantwell said: "What we are trying to do is set new aspirations and expectations for the students.

"The school has had a difficult period in the last two years (when it was Unity College) but we are now installing new standards. What we are concerned about is what is going to happen and not what has happened in the past.

"The students now have expectations of behaviour and a dress code and as a result I think they think more of themselves and it has raised their self awareness.

"We are trying to focus on family values, values of decency and care and sensitivity."

Mr Cantwell, who moved from Newcastle to take up the post, felt the academic results would improve but it was important to be judged on other things as well.

He said: "We have gone from being the least popular school to one which is being oversubscribed for next year as lots of people want to come here.

"We might have had a loss of reputation in the past but we want to build on what is here now.

"We want to create a cultural change which will help the children broaden their horizons and make them believe things are possible.

"There is an awful lot more to do to take things forward. In the next three years we aim to make this the finest school in the area and I am delighted with the way we have started.

"We want a modern approach to teaching and development where children should feel confident."

Sixth former Emily Sebastian said: "We have had lots of change but the students do get so much more."

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Herald&Post Briefs

KIDS CAN GO TO NATIVITY AND GET DRESSED UP

A CHRISTMAS nativity with a twist is being held at Great Park Street Methodist Church in Wellingborough on Christmas Eve.

It starts at 4pm and this year will have a chocolate twist to the event. Children are welcome to go as their favourite nativity character, or costumes will be on loan for the service.

All are welcome to attend and coffee and mince pies will be served afterwards. Doors open at 3.30pm

CHURCH AND SCHOOLS SET FOR CHRISTINGLE

PARK Avenue Methodist Church in Northampton is once again holding a Christingle service.

It will take place at 3pm on Christmas Eve.

The event will involve young people from the church and schools. The church's Christmas Day family service will start at 10.30am and will continue the custom of inviting local musicians to lead the singing of carols.

SIMON'S READY TO RUN FOR YOUNG JAY

A WELLINGBOROUGH man will be taking on a half marathon on New Year's Day to raise money for a child who has a brain tumour.

Simon Cox, 37, will be taking part in the event at Wicksteed Park in aid of Jay Brewer, aged six, from Burton Latimer, who is currently in America with his parents having treatment for his condition.

The money raised will help keep the youngster's family together while he undergoes the medical help in the USA.

Mr Cox is vice-chairman of Burton Park Wanderers Football Club and Jay played for the club until his diagnosis and when treatment started last month.

Anyone who wants to donate can find more details on www.runforjay.co.uk

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Merry Christmas from Afghanistan. . .

PARATROOPER Lance Corporal John Harris is preparing to spend Christmas on the frontline in Afghanistan.

The 35-year-old from Wellingborough is from 2nd Battalion Parachute Regiment. He is usually based in Merville Barracks in Colchester but is currently on operational duty in Helmand Province.

These are some of the furthest forward British troops in counter insurgency operations. John is a member of one of the rifle companies so is out on ground patrol.

He said: "I've done a few Christmas tours in the past, three of them in Northern Ireland. Normally I'd spend my Christmas with Jessica, my wife, and the two children Jake, eight, and Jerrard, three.

"All the parents come around with my sister and her husband; so it's quite a gathering. I'll miss seeing the children opening their presents."

And in a special message, he added: "Thank you for the letters and parcels they really make a difference to everyone's morale." John will be home in January for a two-week mid-tour period of leave. He joined the Army in 1995 having attended Sir Christopher Hatton School in Wellingborough.

PATROL: Lance Corporal John Harris

Electric car giving green clients a lift

BY LAWRENCE JOHN
lawrence.john@HPnorthants.co.uk

THE first 'green taxi' in East Northamptonshire is on the road.

The Toyota Prius, owned by the Warwick Chauffeur Company/Norwoods is the first hybrid electric car to be licensed for hire in the area.

It uses a combination of petrol and electric power units to achieve more miles per gallon and consequently, lower emissions.

At slow speeds and in traffic the car can operate in totally electric mode with zero emissions and no noise pollution.

The company was inspired to go electric after discovering how few real green transport choices are currently available in East Northamptonshire.

The car has a smaller petrol motor and an electric motor powered by a series of batteries.

It optimises between petrol, electric or both to deliver the most economical performance.

When braking and coasting, surplus energy is harvested by the car to recharge the batteries, avoiding the losses typical of normal cars. The owner, Paul Warwick, said: "Introducing the hybrid to the Warwick Chauffer Company/Norwoods fleet means for the first time our clients can choose the green option for their private hire needs.

"Our clients are excited by it and we will add more to the fleet in the New Year."

Julia Smith, East Northants Council's commercial health manager, who is responsible for licensing, said: "We're committed to achieving widespread adoption of low-carbon vehicles across the district and we welcome this move from the Warwick Chauffeur Company."

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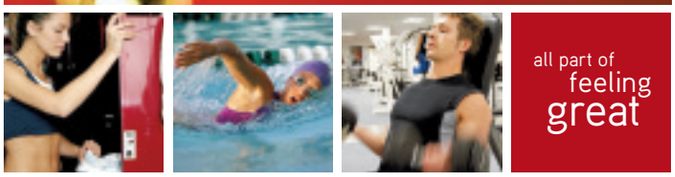

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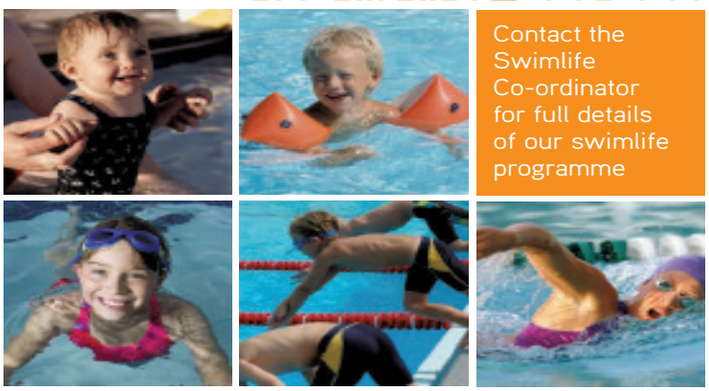

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Green light for business premises to create jobs

DEVELOPMENT: Artist's impression of the EBC Brakes facility

BY JULIE LEA
julie.lea@HPnorthants.co.uk

JOBS and investment will be brought to Northampton after permission was granted for two new business premises.

West Northamptonshire Development Corporation has given the go-ahead for the units on Pineham Industrial Estate.

The development of the buildings is being led by St Clair Land & Developments on behalf of two successful local businesses, EBC Brakes Ltd and Frem Ltd.

WNDC director of planning services, Adrian Arnold said: "The new business units will be an excellent addition to Pineham, which is becoming one of Northampton's key employment areas.

"It's important that we are able to support growing businesses such as EBC Brakes and Frem Ltd and ensure that they are able to fulfil their ambitions in Northampton."

A spokesman for EBC Brakes said: "EBC Brakes has been in Northampton since its inception in 1978 and over its 32 years in business has grown from a single one-man trader selling from a van to be the manufacturer of the largest range of vehicle brakes in the world, with sales approaching £60 million."

Bryan Daisey, managing director of Frem, said: "It was important for us to try to achieve our expansion in the town and not only retain our workforce but expand it from within the local area if possible."

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Anne Richley, Sally O'Connell and Bobby Williams from the homebirth team, with midwife Nedyalka Apostolova, supervisor of midwives Krystyna Grey and midwife Ivelina Doncheva, representing the European midwives education programme. Picture courtesy of NGH

Maternity unit's award hopes for its bright ideas

BY JODIE PARSONS
jodie.parsons@HPnorthants.co.uk

TWO projects from Northampton General Hospital's maternity unit are in the running for a national award.

The innovative schemes, designed and implemented by the ward, have been shortlisted by the Royal College of Midwives (RCM).

The introduction of a homebirth team has been shortlisted in the 'implementing government policy' category of the 2011 RCM Annual Midwifery Awards and an educational programme for midwives from Europe in the category for 'excellence in midwifery education'.

The launch of the NGH homebirth team in April has enabled the unit to offer more choice to women and to handle more efficiently the rising number of homebirths in the area.

In the first six months of operation the team received 500 referrals and homebirths now account for around seven per cent of all NGH births – one of the highest rates in the country.

The team is led by senior midwives Anne Richley, Bobby Williams and Sally O'Connell.

Anne said: "Having a dedicated team of 12 midwives to focus on home births means that we can provide a high quality service.

"We also provide antenatal and postnatal care of the women who choose to give birth at home and the feedback we are getting is that women are delighted with the way we look after them.

"Staff are reporting an increase in job satisfaction too and there is better continuity and communication across the whole of the NGH maternity service as a result."

An educational programme to enhance the knowledge and skills of midwives from Europe was developed by Dr Sarah Church, senior lecturer in midwifery at the University of Northampton, in partnership with the hospital.

NGH supervisor of midwives, Krystyna Grey, said: "We are seeing an increase in applications from midwives trained within mainland Europe and this programme was developed to offer them appropriate support.

"It's designed to enhance their knowledge and skills and help them to apply those within the context of UK practice.

"The programme is not a means of assessing their competency, it is about introducing registered midwives to the culture and organisation, the provision and delivery of midwifery care in the UK.

"Midwives who have completed the programme say it has boosted their confidence as well as their technical knowledge and that of course helps us provide a better quality of care for the women we support."

The award finals will take place on January 19 in London.

Cops hit the shops

POLICE in Wellingborough are targeting shoplifters in the run up to Christmas.

This is being done as the week leading up to the festive season tends to see an increase in such crimes.

PC Lisa Curtis is running a high-profile campaign in the town this week which will see high-visibility policing and an increased uniformed presence in the town centre.

Alongside the patrols, a number of plain-clothes officers will be looking out for the shoplifters.

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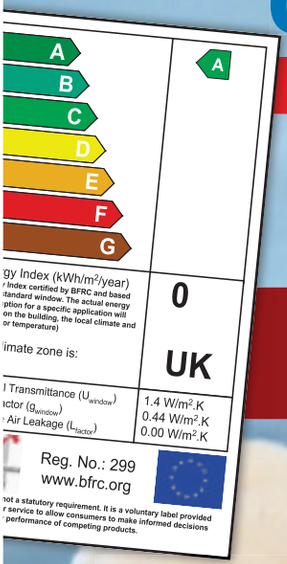

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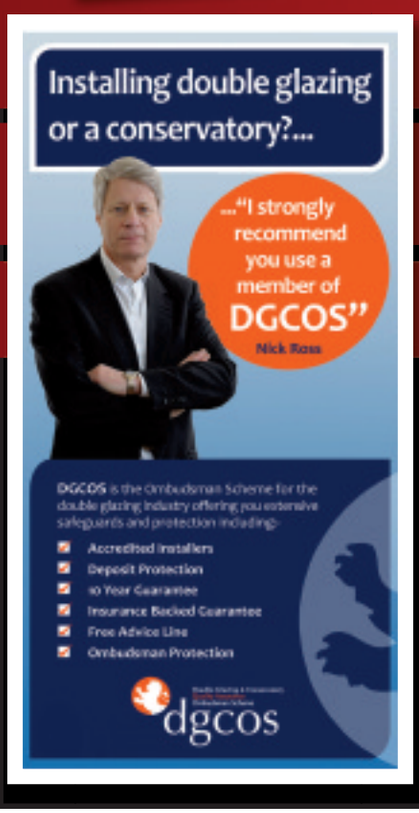

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More vacancies for those seeking jobs

BY JODIE PARSONS
jodie.parsons@HPnorthants.co.uk

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE has seen the biggest rise in available jobs across the East Midlands, with vacancies up more than 56 per cent since last year, figures reveal.

The statistics collated by leading employment and skills specialists Working Links, in accordance with the Office for National Statistics, show the area has seen a 56.1 per cent rise in jobs available from August to October when compared to the same period this time last year.

The county was ahead of Derbyshire and Leicestershire.

Working Links' Midlands employer solutions manager, Laurie Scott, said: "We've seen a lot of activity in the run up to the busy Christmas period, especially in the care sector.

"We've also seen quite a few vacancies in the retail and hospitality sectors, too.

"On the flip side, we're not seeing many vacancies in construction and manufacturing but we're expecting retail to recruit more in 2011.

"Employers in the region are generally looking for candidates that have the right attitude and work ethic, rather than reams of qualifications."

Budding actors deliver festive treats

STUDENTS from Northamptonshire Grammar School were getting into the Christmas sprit last week by taking to the stage.

Its Junior School pupils performed two festive plays.

The younger children staged Let It Snow, while the older ones did Robin Hood.

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Inspection 2	£248.00	£262.00	£275.00
BMW Eight Cylinder Service *			
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Inspection 2	£209.00	Rear Brake Pads £85.00	
BMW M3 Service*			
Oil Service	£127.00	Inspection 2 £385.00	
Inspection 1	£226.00	SMG £385.00	
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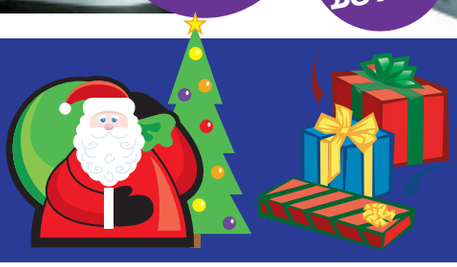

Christmas Opening Times

Christmas Eve	Closed
Christmas Day	Closed
Boxing Day	Closed
Mon 27th December	Closed
Tues 28th December	10-4pm
Wed 29th December	10-4pm
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Example
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REVIEW

JACK AND THE BEANSTALK
Royal & Derngate, Northampton
Until Sunday, January 9

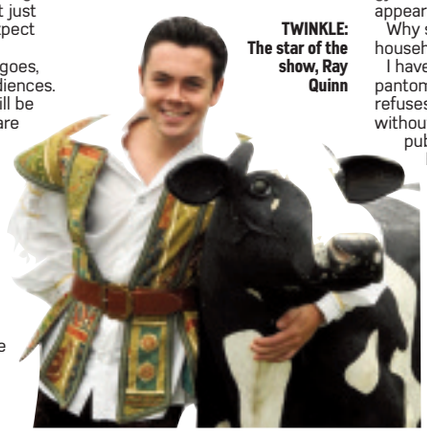
WHEN it comes to entertaining kids at Christmas, you can't just serve up any old tat and expect them to like it.

As the old theatre adage goes, they're the toughest of audiences.

But children of all ages will be lapping up the traditional fare on offer in the Derngate auditorium in the shape of Jack and the Beanstalk.

It may not have the glitz and glamour of some of its competitors but there's a sincerity and charm at the heart of this show that proves infectious and warming on a cold Christmas night.

It's all good stuff, from the twinkle and youthful vitality of leading man Ray Quinn to the villainous braggadocio of Gavin Woods's swaggering Fleshcreep. The Princess (Emma Stephens) is delightful and pretty, Adam Stafford's Dame Trot is pitched with just the right amount of fruitiness and fun and Daisy the Cow provides a star turn of truly bovine proportions.



TWINKLE: The star of the show, Ray Quinn

But the real show-stealer comes in the form of Hilary O'Neil's Fairy Cobblers, whose immense range of impressions and vocal gymnastics makes her every appearance a joy to be savoured.

Why she has not become a household name is beyond me.

I have the usual quibbles with a pantomime that steadfastly refuses to feature live music without announcing it clearly in its publicity and producers Qdos Entertainment must shoulder the opprobrium for this shameful state of affairs, which short-changes the audience of a whole added dimension for what can only be reasons of Scrooge-like miserliness.

But that grumble aside, there's precious little else in this lively extravaganza to make a critic exclaim: "Bah! Humbug!"

MICHAEL DAVIES

STAND OUT PERFORMANCE: Richard Grieve is playing the Sheriff of Nottingham

This must-see show is one the whole family can enjoy

REVIEW

ROBIN HOOD
The Castle, Wellingborough
Until Thursday, December 30

THE Robin Hood production at The Castle Theatre is a must see for all the family.

It's humorous, exciting and suitable for all ages.

This feelgood story is very well portrayed by the cast members who take on the roles of the characters and make the performance very believable.

The clever use of the stage set helps to set the mood from forest to castle scenes.

It flowed very well from one part of the story to the next and kept the audience interested.

All of the cast members were exceptional but the one person who really stood out in my opinion was the Sheriff of Nottingham, played by Richard Grieve.

His portrayal of the character was brilliant and helped to give it that real panto feeling.

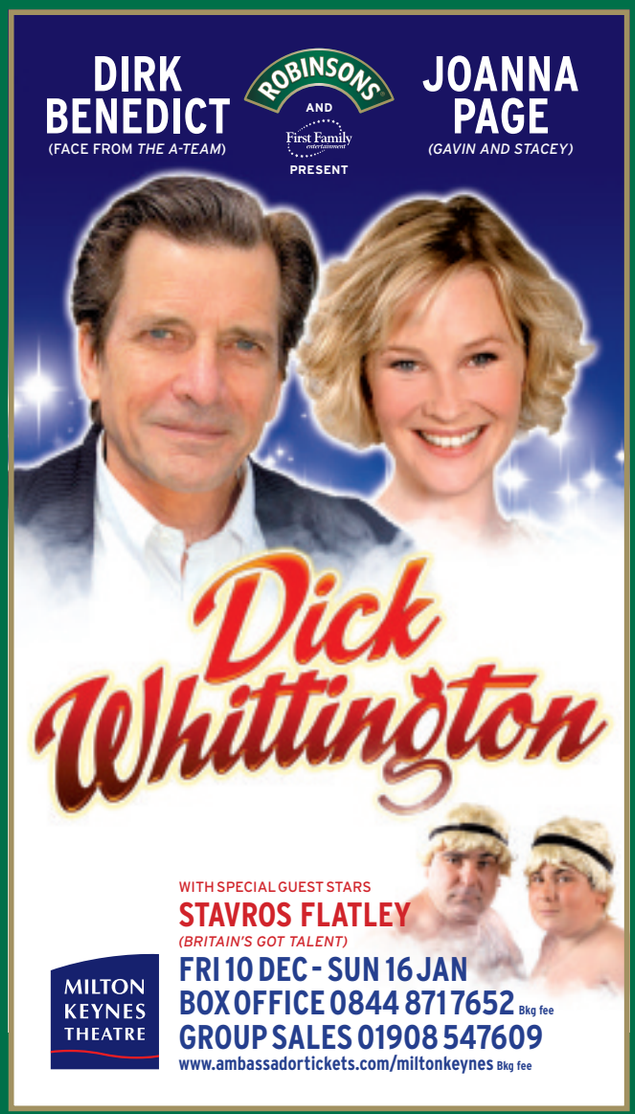
The singing cannot go unrecognised as there were some show-stopping performances and amazing duets.

The song lyrics were creative and humorous; all down to the skilled work of Stephen Plaice & Grant Olding.

I would definitely recommend this show to anyone who wants a few hours of pure entertainment and a great family night out.

If you are struggling to get away this Christmas due to the severe weather conditions, I recommend you stay closer to home and book tickets to see this show as you will not be disappointed.

LUCY EVANS, AGED 13



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SAT 29 JAN

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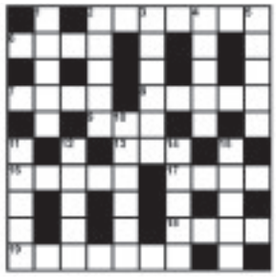

QUICKSOLVE?

ACROSS
2.Festive citrus (7)
6.Bright star (4)
7.Present (4)
8.Flavouring (5)
9.The best (3)
13.Peak (3)
16.Fairy-like (5)
17.Booty (4)
18.Christmas (4)
19.Seasonal fare (7)

DOWN
1.Seasonal bird (5)
2.St Nicholas (5)
3.Decor strands (6)
4.Unwrap (5)
5.Messenger (5)
10.Illumination (6)
11.Lots of food (5)
12.Following (5)
14.Dramas (5)
15.Xmas berry (5)

Nº	6	-	7
Fun!	+	4	+
20	9	x	4

Use all the numbers and signs to make the star total. Do calculations in strict order from left to right with no brackets - eg 4+4+9x5-7=53

Last week: 9 – 5 x 6 + 3 + 5 = 13

BRAIN STRAIN

S BRAIN O
R D
F
I N
W STRAIN T

How many words of four letters or more can you make? No plurals, proper names or foreign words. All must include the centre letter. Good: 15. Marvellous: 25+

SU DOKU

			6	8				
8	3						9	4
		2			1			
						7	3	
2								6
	6	1	9	5				
			3			2		
3	1						5	8
				4	7			

Complete the grid so that all rows, columns and 3x3 boxes contain the numbers 1 to 9. Solution next week

MATCH FIVE

Amongst all the five letter words, can you find the five that appear in both grids? (Forwards, backwards, up, down, straight or diagonal)

QUICKSOLVE?

SOLUTION FOR LAST WEEK
ACROSS: 1.Upwardly 6.Windowsill 8.Jesus 9.Paper 12.Ice skating 13.Ancestor
DOWN: 1.Lifesaving 2.Wire 3.Road 4.Listed 5.Falls singer 7.Reason 10.Clubs 11.Gift

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The directors' efforts to bring an exacting quality of service to all their customers has not gone unnoticed within the manufacturers' world and now Mitsubishi Motors has appointed Newman & Reidy as its representatives for Northampton and the surrounding area.

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Mr Newman said: "We are really excited about this terrific opportunity to be able to supply the class leading range of Mitsubishi vehicles, from the ground braking Colt to the industry leading range of L200 pick ups and Shoguns.

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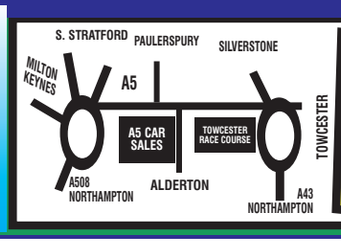

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2009 09 **VAUXHALL AGILA 1.2 DESIGN,** 5 door, blue, 4,400 miles £7995

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2001 51 **ASTRA 1.6 CLUB** 5 door, black, 85,000 miles £2295
1999 T **ASTRA 1.6 CLUB** 5 door, red, average mileage £1495
1998 S **ASTRA 1.6 CLUB** 5 door estate, red, average mileage £1495

2004 04 **VAUXHALL SIGNUM 2.2 ELITE** 5 speed in green/leather trim, 71,000 miles £4995
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2009 59 **PEUGEOT 308 1.6 HDI (90) S** 5 door, blue, 5,000 miles £10495
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2008 08 **PEUGEOT 308 1.6 HDI S (90)** 5 door in iron grey £8995
2007 57 **PEUGEOT 308 HDI (110) SPORT,** 5 door, blue, 17,000 miles £8495
2007 57 **FORD FUSION 1.4 TDCI ZETEC CLIMATE** 5 door, grey, 26,000 miles £7295
2007 57 **PEUGEOT 307 SW 1.6 HDI (110) SE** 5 door, red, 18,000 miles £8495
2006 56 **SKODA SUPERB 1.9 TDI (130) COMFORT** 4 door, grey, 59,000 miles £7995
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2005 05 **PEUGEOT 2005 307 SW S90 2.0HDI,** 5 door, black £4,995
2004 54 **RENAULT SCENIC 1.5 DCI EXPRESSION** 5 door, red, average mileage £3995
2003 03 **FORD FOCUS 1.8 TDCI GHIA** 5 door, grey, high mileage £2995
2002 52 **SEAT IBIZA 1.9 TDI S** 3 door, black, 75,000 miles £2695
2002 51 **CITROEN C5 2.0 HDI LX** 5 door, green, above average mileage £1295
2001 Y **ASTRA 1.7 DTI ENVOY** 5 door, white average mileage £2495
1998 R **ROVER 620 S TURBO DIESEL** 4 door, silver, high mileage £995
1997 R **FORD MONDEO 1.8 LX TD ESTATE,** brown 89,000 miles £1695

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2008 08 **FOCUS 1.6 ZETEC** 5 door, blue, 13,000 miles £8495
2008 08 **FOCUS 1.6 ZETEC** 5 door, grey, 12,000 miles £7995
2005 05 **FORD FOCUS 1.6 LX** 5 door, pepper red, 55,000 miles £5495
2004 04 **FORD FOCUS 2.0 ST 170** 3 door, blue, above average miles £3995
2004 04 **FOCUS 1.6 ZETEC,** 3 door, silver, slightly above average mileage £3995
2003 53 **FOCUS 1.6 LX,** 4 door, in silver, 71.000 miles £3995
2001 Y **FOCUS 1.6 ZETEC** 5 door estate, black, above average mileage £1995

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2010 59 **PEUGEOT 207 1.6 HDI (90) SPORT,** 5 door, black, 3000 miles £9995
2008 58 **PEUGEOT 207 1.4S** 3 door 5 speed in diablo red £6995
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2010 10 **CORSA 1.4 SE** 5 door auto, grey, 1,050 miles £10995
2009 09 **FIESTA 1.4 Style+,** 5 door auto, silver, 3,300 miles £9995
2008 58 **FORD FOCUS C-MAX 2.0 TDCI Zetec,** 5 door auto, silver, 6,900 miles £12500
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2004 54 **CORSA 1.4 DESIGN** 5 door auto in dark green £4695
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2003 53 **JAGUAR XJ6 3.0** 4 door auto, blue, above average miles £6995
2002 52 **MERCEDES C220 CDI 2.1 AVANT GARDE** 4 door auto, blue, 72,000 miles £5995
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2007 07 **ZAFIRA 1.8 LIFE** 5 door,blue, 40,000 miles £6495
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2004 54 **KIA SEDONA 2.9 CRDI LS** 5 door auto, black, 38,000 miles £4995
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2000 W **MERCEDES A140 ELEGANCE** 5 door, green, 91,000 miles £2695
2000 W **FORD MONDEO 2.0 GHIA,** 4 door, 5 speed in black £1695
1999 T **MERCEDES C200 2.0 CLASSIC Estate,** blue, average miles £2495
1998 S **DAIHATSU 1.6 GRAND MOVE,** 5 door, red, 74,000 miles £1195

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2001 51 **FORD KA 1.3** 3 door, red, average mileage £1695

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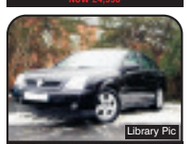
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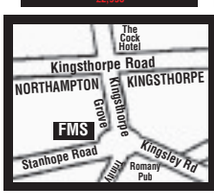

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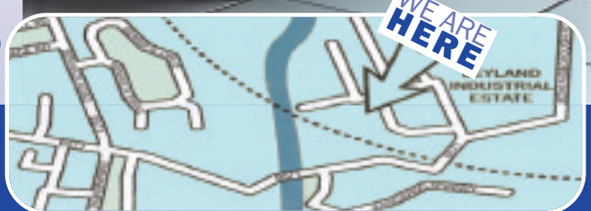

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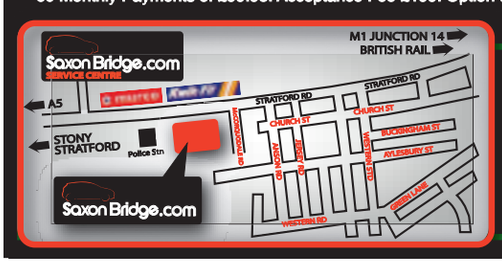

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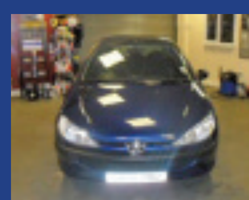

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HIGHWAYS AGENCY
ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 – SECTION 14(1)(a)
THE A45 TRUNK ROAD (WELLINGBOROUGH TO RAUNDS, NORTHAMPTONSHIRE) (TEMPORARY RESTRICTION AND PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) ORDER 2010

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Secretary of State for Transport intends to make an Order on the A45 Trunk Road between Wellingborough and Raunds in the County of Northamptonshire to allow resurfacing and general maintenance work to be carried out.

The effect of the Order will be to –

(1) impose a 50 miles per hour speed restriction on the eastbound and westbound carriageways of the A45 between the centreline of the A509 London Road underbridge, Wellingborough to a point 1000 metres north of its roundabout junction with West Street (Stanwick Roundabout);
(2) impose a 30 miles per hour speed restriction the eastbound and westbound carriageways of the A45 between points 800 metres south and 800 metres north of its roundabout junction with the A6 and Station Road (Chowns Mill Roundabout), including the circulatory carriageway of that roundabout;
(3) impose a 10 miles per hour speed restriction on the eastbound and westbound carriageways of the A45 between points 400 metres south and 400 metres north of Chowns Mill Roundabout, including the circulatory carriageway of that roundabout, when signs indicating "convoy working" are displayed;
(4) close –
(a) Chowns Mill Roundabout;
(b) the eastbound carriageway of the A45 from its junction with the slip road leading to its roundabout junction with Ditchford Road and the A5001 near Rushden (Ditchford Road Interchange) to its junction with Stanwick Roundabout; and
(c) the westbound carriageway of the A45 from its junction with Stanwick Roundabout to its junction with the slip road leading from its roundabout junction with Ditchford Road and the A5001 near Rushden;
(5) close the layby situated adjacent to –
(i) the westbound carriageway of the A45 approximately 1500 metres south of Chowns Mill Roundabout;
(ii) the eastbound carriageway of the A45 approximately 1800 metres south of Chowns Mill Roundabout;
(iii) the westbound carriageway of the A45 approximately 1500 kilometres north of Chowns Mill Roundabout; and
(iv) the eastbound carriageway of the A45 approximately 800 metres south of Chowns Mill Roundabout.

The work will be carried out overnight between 20:00 hours and 06:00 hours and is expected to start on Monday 10 January 2011 and continue for approximately three weeks. The Order will come into force on 7 January 2011.

Vehicles being used by the emergency services will be exempt from the speed restrictions and closures and vehicles being used in connection with the works will be exempt from the closures. Diversion routes will be well signed.

MIKE LLOYD, A Higher Executive Officer in the Highways Agency

General enquiries relating to these works may be made to Helen Beech, Project Manager on behalf of the Highways Agency, on 01623 886602.

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NORTHAMPTON BOROUGH COUNCIL

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (GENERAL DEVELOPMENT PROCEDURE) ORDER 1995
NOTICE UNDER ARTICLE 8
PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) ACT 1990

APPLICATIONS FOR PLANNING PERMISSION

N/2010/1078 **Land to the rear of 2 Trinity Avenue** - Erection of 1no. one bed dwelling with integral parking. Impacts in the setting of a Conservation Area.

N/2010/1075 **14 Edwardian Close** - Two-storey rear extension. (Re-submission of N/2010/0771). Impacts in the setting of a Conservation Area.

N/2010/1065 **Northampton Railway Station, Black Lion Hill** - Prior notification of the re-development of Northampton Railway Station.

N/2010/1058 **28a High Street, Hardingstone** - Proposed car port. Within a Conservation Area.

N/2010/1084 **Albion Court, Albion Place** - Demolition of part of boundary wall and re-build. Within the curtilage of a Listed Building and within a Conservation Area.

Members of the public may inspect copies of the applications, plans and any other documentation submitted at Cliftonville House Reception (Planning), Bedford Road, Northampton or at the One Stop Shop, Guildhall, St. Giles Square, Northampton during all reasonable office hours. Plans can also be viewed on-line at www.northampton.gov.uk, click on 'planning' and then 'planning search facility'. Anyone who wishes to make representations about these applications should write to the Planning Division, Cliftonville House, Bedford Road, Northampton or email planning@northampton.gov.uk by 13th January 2011.

Susan Bridge, Head of Planning
Northampton Borough Council

WNDC

WEST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
NOTICE OF APPLICATIONS FOR PLANNING PERMISSION
TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (GENERAL DEVELOPMENT PROCEDURE) ORDER 1995
PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) ACT 1990

10/0190/FULWNN
Development Site D1 Upton, Upton Way, Northampton, Northamptonshire
Proposal: Erection of 200 dwellings, associated car parking and landscaping (part revised scheme to reserved matters approval N/2005/1615 dated 27th March 2006 for erection of 345 dwellings).
Reason for advertisement:
The proposal is a Major Development.
The proposal would affect a right of way to which Part III of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (public rights of way) applies.

10/0192/FULWNN
68 St Giles Street, Northampton, Northamptonshire, NN1 1JW
Proposal: Change of use from Jeweller's shop (Use Class A1) to Tattoo Studio (Sui Generis).
Reason for advertisement:
The proposal is considered to affect the character and appearance of a conservation area.

Copies of the applications, plans and any other documentation submitted are available for inspection at WNDC Offices, Franklin's Gardens, Weedon Road, Northampton between 10am –12am and 2pm – 4pm. They can also be viewed on-line at www.wndc.org.uk, please follow the link to search planning applications. Anyone who wishes to make representations about these applications can comment via our website or write to the Planning Department, PO Box 622 Franklin's Gardens, Northampton, NN5 5WU by 20.01.2011.

In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and Data Protection Act 1998, and other legislation, the public has the right to inspect all papers connected with the application. When submitting a comment on a planning application to WNDC, we will record your name, address and comments. Your name and address will be published, along with any comments you make, in the public planning register, which is available in hard copy and online.

Adrian Arnold
Director of Planning Services, on behalf of West Northamptonshire Development Corporation
Date: 23.12.2010

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 - SECTION 14
THE NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL (DOWTHORPE END, EARLS BARTON) (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF THROUGH TRAFFIC) ORDER 2010

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Northamptonshire County Council intend, not less than seven days from the date of this Notice, to make an Order the effect of which will be to prohibit traffic from proceeding along that length of Dowthorpe End, Earls Barton as set out below.

LENGTH OF ROAD TO WHICH RESTRICTION APPLIES: That length of Dowthorpe End, Earls Barton from junction of Doddington Road to the outside of 1 Dowthorpe End.

REASONS FOR RESTRICTION: The restriction is required for safety during service repairs.

PERIOD OF CLOSURE: The proposed Order will come into effect on 4th January 2010 and will continue in force for a period of eighteen months. An application may be made for the approval of the Secretary of State for Transport for the Order to be extended if this proves necessary. However, the restriction specified will have effect only at such times and to such an extent as is indicated by the display of signs prescribed by the Traffic Signs Regulations and General Directions 2002.

EXPECTED DURATION: It is expected that the road will be restricted for one day.

ALTERNATIVE ROUTES: The alternative route for vehicles heading south use Doddington Road, Dowthorpe Hill, Spring Gardens and Mount Pleasant. The route is vice versa for traffic heading north.

Dated this 23rd day of December 2010
PENELOPE OSBORNE
Head of Corporate Governance
County Hall
NORTHAMPTON
PKG/T11/004

If you require any further information please contact Gary Thorp on 01604-364359.

HIGHWAYS AGENCY

HIGHWAYS AGENCY
ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 - SECTION 14(1)(a)
THE A5 TRUNK ROAD (WEEDON TO NORTH OF KILSBY, NORTHAMPTONSHIRE) (TEMPORARY RESTRICTION AND PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) ORDER 2010

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Secretary of State for Transport intends to make an Order on lengths of the A5 Trunk Road between Weedon and Kilsby in the County of Northamptonshire to allow resurfacing and general maintenance work to be carried out.

The effect of the Order will be to -
(a) close the northbound and southbound carriageways of the A5 from its junction with the A45 (Weedon Crossroads) to its roundabout junction with the A428 (Dirft Roundabout);
(b) impose a 40 miles per hour speed restriction on the northbound and southbound carriageways of the A5 from a point 300 metres north of its junction with the A45 (Weedon Crossroads) to A428 (Dirft Roundabout);
(c) impose a 10 miles per hour speed restriction on lengths of the A5 described in (a) when signs indicating "convoy working" are being displayed;
(d) close any layby adjacent to the lengths of the A5 described in (a) above; and
(e) prohibit overtaking on the length of the A5 described in (a) above.

Work will be carried out between 2000 hours and 0600 hours on Mondays to Fridays and at weekends from 2000 hours on Fridays to 0600 hours on Mondays and is expected to start on Monday 10 January 2011 and continue for approximately five weeks. The laybys described in (d) above will be closed 24 hours a day during the work period. The Order will come into force on 7 January 2011.

Vehicles being used by the emergency services will be exempt from the speed restrictions, closures and prohibitions. Vehicles being used in connection with the works will be exempt from the closures. Access to property will be maintained at all times.

Diversion routes will be well signed.

Mike Lloyd, A Higher Executive Officer in the Highways Agency

General enquiries relating to these works may be made to Helen Beech, Project Manager on behalf of the Highways Agency, on 01623 886 602.

HIGHWAYS AGENCY

HIGHWAYS AGENCY
ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 – SECTION 14(1)(A)
THE A5 TRUNK ROAD (TOWCESTER, NORTHAMPTONSHIRE) (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) ORDER 2011

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Secretary of State for Transport intends to make an Order on the A5 Trunk Road at Towcester in the County of Northamptonshire to allow resurfacing work to be carried out.

The effect of the order will be to -
(a) close the A5 between a point 110 metres north and a point 125 metres south of the centre point of its junction with Brackley Road/Northampton Road at Towcester; and
(b) prohibit vehicles from waiting on the verge adjacent to the length of the A5 described at (a) above.

The work will be carried out overnight between 18.00 hours and 06.00 hours and is expected to start on Saturday 15 January 2011 and continue for six nights. The Order will come into force on 10 January 2011.

Vehicles being used by the emergency services and vehicles being used in connection with the works will be exempt from the closure. Diversion routes will be well signed.

Mike Lloyd, A Higher Executive Officer in the Highways Agency

General enquiries relating to these works may be made to Andrew Perry, Project Manager on behalf of the Highways Agency, on 01536 419600.

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NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 - SECTION 14
THE NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL (VARIOUS ROADS, RUSHDEN) (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF THROUGH TRAFFIC) ORDER 2010

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Northamptonshire County Council intend, not less than seven days from the date of this Notice, to make an Order the effect of which will be to prohibit traffic from proceeding along those lengths of the various roads in Rushden as specified in the Schedule below.

REASONS FOR RESTRICTION: The restriction is required for safety during construction of highway improvements and resurfacing works.

PERIOD OF CLOSURE: The proposed Order will come into effect on 3rd January 2011 and will continue in force for a period of eighteen months. An application may be made for the approval of the Secretary of State for Transport for the Order to be extended if this proves necessary. However, the restriction specified will have effect only at such times and to such an extent as is indicated by the display of signs prescribed by the Traffic Signs Regulations and General Directions 2002.

EXPECTED DURATION: It is expected that the roads will be restricted for 10 weeks.

ALTERNATIVE ROUTES: As specified in the Schedule below.

Dated this 23rd day of December 2010
PENELOPE OSBORNE
Head of Corporate Governance
County Hall
NORTHAMPTON
PKG/T11/002

If you require any further information please contact Gary Thorp on 01604-364359.

SCHEDULE
(Lengths of roads to be closed and alternative routes)

Site 1 – Southern gateway
Works commencing on the 04th January 2011 and expected to last for 10 weeks.
Termination Points: From junction with Church Street to the junction with Coffee Tavern Lane.
Diversion Route: use Skinners Hill, Duck Street, High Street, Rectory Road and Queen Street.

Site 2 – Square feature
Works expected to last for 12 weeks from a date to be confirmed.
Termination Points: College Street - from junction with High Street to the junction with Alfred Street. High Street - from junction with Coffee Tavern Lane to the junction with Queen Street.
Diversion Route: for traffic heading north use Skinners Hill, Duck Street, High Street, Rectory Road and Queen Street.
for traffic heading south use Rectory Road, Skinners Hill, Church Street and Alfred Street.

Site 3 – Northern gateway
Works expected to last for 12 weeks from a date to be confirmed.
Termination Points: High Street - from junction with Queen Street to the junction with Station Road. Duck Street – from junction with Carnegie Street to the junction with High Street. Victoria Road – from junction with Rectory Road to junction with High Street
Diversion Route: For traffic heading north on A5028 use Wellingborough Road, Washbrook Road and Higham Road.
For through traffic wishing to use Victoria Road use Rectory Road, Queen Street, High Street, College Street, Duck Street and Fitzwilliam Street then A5028 diversion.
For traffic intending to head north from Queen Street or unclassified High Street use College Street, Duck Street and Fitzwilliam Street then A5028 diversion.

Resurfacing between Site 1 and 2
Works expected to last for 2 weeks from a date to be confirmed.
Termination Points: From junction with Church Street to the junction with College Street.
Diversion Route: use Skinners Hill, Duck Street, High Street, Rectory Road and Queen Street.

Resurfacing between Site 2 and 3
Works expected to last for 2 weeks from a date to be confirmed.
Termination Points: From junction with College Street to the junction with Victoria Road.
Diversion Route: use College Street and Duck Street.

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 - SECTION 14
THE NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL (COFFEE TAVERN LANE, RUSHDEN) (TEMPORARY TWO WAY TRAFFIC) ORDER 2010

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Northamptonshire County Council intend, not less than seven days from the date of this Notice, to make an Order the effect of which will be introduce temporary two way traffic along that length of Coffee Tavern Lane, Rushden as set out below.

LENGTH OF ROAD TO WHICH RESTRICTION APPLIES: That length of Coffee Tavern Lane, Rushden from junction of High Street to the junction of Rectory Road.

REASONS FOR RESTRICTION: The restriction is required for access for vehicles during closure of High Street.

PERIOD OF CLOSURE: The proposed Order will come into effect on 4th January 2010 and will continue in force for a period of eighteen months. An application may be made for the approval of the Secretary of State for Transport for the Order to be extended if this proves necessary. However, the restriction specified will have effect only at such times and to such an extent as is indicated by the display of signs prescribed by the Traffic Signs Regulations and General Directions 2002.

EXPECTED DURATION: It is expected that the road will be restricted for ten weeks.

ALTERNATIVE ROUTES: For access for vehicles during closure of High Street.

Dated this 23rd day of December 2010
PENELOPE OSBORNE
Head of Corporate Governance
County Hall
NORTHAMPTON
PKG/T11/003

If you require any further information please contact Gary Thorp on 01604-364359.

HIGHWAYS AGENCY

HIGHWAYS AGENCY
ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 – SECTION 14(1)(a)
THE A45 TRUNK ROAD (WOOTTON, NORTHAMPTON) (SLIP ROAD) (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) ORDER 2010

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Secretary of State for Transport intends to make an order on the A45 Trunk Road near Wootton, in the Borough of Northampton to allow the replacement of an anti-dazzle fence.

The effect of the Order will be to close the slip road leading from the southbound carriageway of the A45 to Berry Lane.

The work is expected to start on Monday 10 January 2011 and continue for one month. The Order will come into force on 7 January 2011.

Vehicles being used for police, fire brigade or ambulance purposes and vehicles being used in connection with the works will be exempt from the closure. A diversion route will be well signed.

MIKE LLOYD, A Higher Executive Officer in the Highways Agency

General enquiries relating to these works may be made to Andrew Perry, Project Manager on behalf of the Highways Agency, on 01536 473607.

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The Cobblers kids are alright, says teenage star Wedderburn

FOOTBALL

ALAN Hansen famously said that Manchester United would, 'Never win anything with kids' at the start of the 1995/96 season. They subsequently went on to claim a Premier League and FA Cup double that same season.

No-one is suggesting that Northampton Town's young squad, with an average age of around 22, is ready to hit those highs just yet, but they remain in with a real chance of winning promotion from League Two.

Nathaniel Wedderburn *(pictured)* is certainly one who is impressed by what he has seen so far. At 19, he is still one of those up-and-coming youngsters, but believes the Cobblers have got the balance right.

"You need that mixture of youth and experience," he said. "We've got more younger players than experienced ones, but they're holding their own and doing well.

"Ryan Gilligan is only 23 but you can class him as experienced because he's played nearly 200 games.

"The quality of players is brilliant. Technically we've got some very good players and a lot of them have played a lot of games.

"Even the youngsters have played a lot of games, which helps because having them in the team helps everyone."

With Craig Hinton and Steve Guinan both leaving the club on-loan, Andy Holt, Marcus Hall and Leon McKenzie are the only squad members over the age of 30 at Sixfields.

It has therefore fallen to the young players to fill that void, with loan signings Craig King, Ben Tozer and Ryan Jarvis also still being in their formative years as professional footballers.

Wedderburn has settled into a central midfield role since joining Northampton from Stoke City in the summer, where he was named Academy Player of the Year in 2008.

He has often featured alongside Abdul Osman in the centre of the park, saying: "He's a good player to play with. He is strong in the tackle, good on the ball, and we talk a lot and get on well.

"I've only played with Ryan Gilligan a few times, but as I said he has got a lot of experience and helps me out a lot.

"I've only played one time with Kevin Thornton, but we all know that he is quality and it shines through during the games.

"Sometimes you have to change your game now and then because not everyone is the same player. It could be the other way around because they might have to change to suit whoever they are playing with, but I don't mind.

"Whoever I play with it is easy because they're good players, and they help me out, being a young lad. I just give it my all."

Loan spells with Notts County and Hereford United over the previous two seasons gave Wedderburn a taste of what football in League Two is all about.

STOKED TO BE AT TOWN: Nathaniel Wedderburn is happy to be learning his trade at Northampton

Now after 14 appearances in a Northampton shirt he is getting used to life at this level and is targetting an improvement in his game to nail down a regular first team spot, starting with the Boxing Day game at home to Burton Albion.

Wedderburn said: "It's just gaining knowledge of the game, the league and just to get the experience of this division. It's a very physical league and you don't really get time on the ball.

"You've got to have a picture in your mind of what you want to do straight away because you're getting closed down and there are challenges being put in.

"It's my first full season at this level, and I want to play a few more games and improve. I think I'm doing OK but there's always room for improvement.

"I'm enjoying my time here. It's a good set of lads, good coaching staff and we're just hoping to keep getting the right results."

Rush of blood to the head helps Saints go a step nearer to Euro cup last eight spot

BY MARC BAZELEY
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THEY may have been unhappy with the red card to Xavier Rush and the late try by Calum Clark, but Cardiff Blues only have themselves to blame after Northampton Saints edged a fiery contest 23-19 in Wales on Sunday.

The Saints extended their lead at the top of Pool One with a resilient performance in the Heineken Cup, while effectively ending Cardiff's hopes in the competition for another year.

Head coach Dai Young was gracious in defeat, but the home fans were not so kind to referee Jerome Garces after he sent off Rush for a disgraceful high shot on Courtney Lawes.

Then on 73 minutes, replacement Clark's match-clinching try was awarded by Television Match Official Jean-Claude Levrier despite replays showing that he may have been tackled before being able to get the ball over the line.

But in truth, it is a moot point. The simple facts are the Blues failed to turn possession and territory into points during the first half and were duly punished, while Stephen Myler's 18 points kept the visitors within touching distance.

Saints director of rugby Jim Mallinder said: "We were put under pressure quite a lot in the first half, the Blues dominated and we were fortunate to been at 9-9 going in at half time, but I was really pleased with the way we came out after half time.

"We've had a number of sides who played wide against us and I remember Edinburgh, particularly in the first half, put us under a lot of pressure by moving ball, and in a way causing penalties by making us give them away through good attack.

"We were put under a lot of pressure there, but I was really pleased with the way we responded to it in the second half."

All Cardiff had to show for their efforts in the first half were three penalties from Dan Parks, even with Northampton down to 14 at one point following James Downey's sin-binning.

It was thanks to the kicking of Myler that the Saints went in level at the break with the match delicately poised at nine points apiece, although within four minutes of the restart the hosts had put themselves in the driving seat.

Casey Laulala's break from halfway had taken the Blues up to the opposition's 22 and Richard Mustoe spied a gap in the defence, bouncing off several players before dotting down near the posts to give Parks a simple conversion.

However, when Bradley Davies was yellow carded it allowed Myler to step up and slot over penalty number four.

Then on 54 minutes came the turning point when Rush clobbered Lawes with a swinging arm that started in Barry Island and would probably have finished up in Newport had the Northampton lock's head not been in the way of it.

Referee Garces consulted with his touch judge and produced a red card, much to the dismay of the New Zealander.

"He certainly came out of the line quickly and took his head off," was all Mallinder would say when asked if the sending off was justified.

Fly half Myler duly kicked the resulting penalty and then added his sixth of the afternoon that briefly saw Northampton lead. The Blues rallied and a close-range drop goal from Scotland international Parks put them back in front with 16 minutes to play.

Playing with the numerical advantage, Northampton surged forward and with seven minutes to go Clark tried to crash through the Cardiff defence looking for a try.

The French match official was unsure and sent the decision upstairs to the TMO. There were no doubts in his mind that it was a fair try, although the missed conversion from Myler ensured a nervy end to the contest.

Despite Clark then being sin-binned, Northampton held out to put themselves firmly in control of Pool One, while Castres' defeat at Edinburgh on Monday means that the Saints are now six points clear with two games to play and closing in on a home quarter final.

"I don't think we'll dream about it, I think we'll work towards that," said Mallinder, adding: "We've got two good sides next – Edinburgh at home... and then that last game. We don't quite know what will ride on it, but we've got to go down to Castres which I'm sure – whatever the situation of the pool – will be difficult.

"We are learning, we've still got some fairly young players, and last year we won our three home games but lost the two big ones out in Munster and France.

"We've talked about winning big games away from home this year and we're doing that at the moment."

A decade of dedication pays off for Red Bull's Blackwell

MOTORSPORT

RED Bull Racing mechanic Steve Blackwell was delighted to see hours of hard work pay off when his team were crowned drivers and constructors champions, ***writes Tom Biggs.***

Blackwell, who lives in Northamptonshire, has been involved behind the scenes in Formula One since 1998, having previously worked at Cosworth.

His official title is a machine shop charge hand and Blackwell works on the machinery that goes into both Mark Webber and world champion Sebastian Vettel's race cars.

Working up to four 14-hour shifts a week certainly isn't most people's ideal job, but Blackwell wouldn't want to be working anywhere else. He admits that all his hard work and long hours have finally paid off after over a decade in the job.

The 40-year old said: "It was a wonderful feeling to see all those hard hours pay off for a change. It's the first time I have been part of a championship winning team, and it feels fantastic.

"We now need to go forward and continue to do what we're doing – winning puts an extra spring in your step."

While much of the praise has been heaped on the race day team, from the engineers to the drivers, no-one can underestimate the importance of the job Blackwell and the rest of his team have done for Red Bull behind closed doors.

He said: "We received a lot of credit. They came round and thanked us during briefs. Both drivers thanked us at the end of the season.

"It is important all the team say thank you and show respect for everyone involved.

"Everything is in place to again be successful – hopefully this is just the beginning. You can never guarantee you are going to be up there, because there are so many good teams."

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Stephen Myler's 18 points kept Saints in touch with Cardiff while Calum Clark's controversial score (inset) proved the difference and saw Saints strengthen their positon at the top of Pool One

pictures by Andy Kearns

Gowans says win was 'out of this world'

BOXING

NORTHAMPTON soldier Rifleman Simon Gowans *(pictured above in red gloves)* helped his team from 5th Battalion The RIFLES (5 Rifles) win their British Army Germany Championships semi-final against The 1st Battalion, the Princess of Wales Royal Regiment (PWRR).

The 19-year-old defeated Lance Corporal Chalky White on points in the contest over three two minute rounds and his regiment now go on to face 7 Regiment, The Royal Logistic Corps in February's final.

Rifleman Gowans began boxing while on a tour of duty in Iraq in May 2009 and now has five wins from his seven army boxing contests so far.

He said: "I feel out of this world after winning this fight. We've been training really hard for two months."

In all personnel from 5 RIFLES won five of the nine bouts. The match came right down to the last bout with Rifleman Daniel Hanekom stopping PWRR's Corporal Digova to secure victory for his team.

head of the 5 RIFLES boxing team and organiser of the event, Staff Sergeant Stuart Mann, said: "Tonight has been a fantastic display of boxing from both teams. I always had faith in my guys; I knew they would come through in the end."

Edinburgh wants Luton clash on so club can remember Dale

FOOTBALL

RUSHDEN & Diamonds are set to play their first game since the death of Dale Roberts on Sunday, with manager Justin Edinburgh hoping it will beat the weather so his side can pay tribute to the goalkeeper.

The Diamonds have already decided to retire the number one shirt worn by Roberts in his honour, while a memorial fund has also been set up by the club to help his parents meet funeral expenses.

Monday saw the squad returned to training for the first time since the England C international died, with Luton Town set to visit Nene Park for the Boxing Day encounter.

"We don't want to get it so much out of the way, but get across the line so to speak," Edinburgh said, adding: "I said that I thought the game against Luton would be a tribute to Dale, so the weather gives us a bit of a break and hopefully allows us to get the game to go ahead, because I think it would be a fitting tribute.

"I think we can overcome that original adrenaline rush, and try to get ourselves focused and get back to some normality.

"It's not going to be simple and easy, but I think that game will certainly go a long way in helping us do that. If it's not on then we will have to wait until the next."

On the field, Rushden are without a league win since October, but remain in contention for a place in the Blue Square Bet Premier play-offs.

They will be without Jamie Day for the Luton match as he still has one match to serve on his three game suspension following the recent postponements.

But the extra time off means that Shane Huke and Michael Corcoran could both feature as they have had extra time to recover from their respective injuries.

With January just around the corner it means that the transfer window is set to re-open, although Edinburgh believes that the number of postponed games for the majority of clubs could affect potential dealings.

He said: "It's difficult knowing what people want to do and where they are at. If you look at the loan market people might want to hold on because of the backlog and a lot of people like the Football League are going to have a big backlog of fixtures.

"I've got to be planning but you don't want to bring people in and, no disrespect, you don't want them just here to train. It isn't logical."

However, Edinburgh is hoping to tie up a deal for on-loan striker Rene Howe. The Peterborough United forward has impressed since moving to the club in the summer, scoring six goals so far.

"We spoke with the boy and that's ongoing," said the Rushden boss, adding: "With what's gone on that's sort of taken a back seat.

"Over the course of this week we will try and get some plans put in place and see what we can really get sorted."

SPORT SHORTS

RUGBY UNION

THREE Northampton Saints youngsters have been called into the England under-18 squad for their international against Ireland on December 30.

Forward Danny Herriott and backs Alex Day and Will Hooley have all been named in John Fletcher's team for their FIRA-AER tournament qualifier at Donnybrook next Thursday. Saints first team members Jamie Elliott and Ben Nutley have also received call-ups to the under-19 academy side for their uncapped international against the Irish on the same day.

Former Northampton academy boss Rob Hunter, now England Under-20 coach said: "This is a great opportunity for the lads to show us what they can do.

"There's a lot of talent in the squad and a few U20 players in the mix too, so it should be a good match up."

HORSE RACING

TOWCESTER Racecourse have been forced to cancel their traditional Boxing Day meeting due to the current poor weather conditions.

The meeting is one of the biggest of the year for the Northamptonshire venue, but the recent snow and sub-zero temperatures have left the course unfit for racing.

BOWLS

NORTHAMPTON & District IBC celebrated their 25th anniversary with a 176-167 victory over a team from the Northamptonshire Indoor Bowling Association over eight rinks.

The county had eight former presidents in the team, plus a number of executive officers, but owing to the huge loss on one rink, they succumbed to defeat by nine shots.

This week's sport incorporates stories from the Wellingborough & Rushden Herald & Post

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JACKSON GRUNDY ESTATE AGENTS

Fans back Jack for India trip

CRICKET

JACK Brooks has been presented with a cheque for £1,000 from the Northants Cricket Supporters' Club to help fund his two week trip to India.

The right arm seamer will travel to Chennai to attend a two-week fast bowling masterclass with former Northamptonshire and Australian pace legend Dennis Lillee.

Trevor Bailey, chairman of the Supporters' Club said: "When we heard that Jack could have this opportunity, we decided to help sponsor his trip.

"Hopefully our donation will help one of the club's brightest young talents."

Brooks *(pictured right)* made his first class debut against the touring Australians in 2009, taking the wickets of Andrew McDonald and Mitchell Johnson in the visitors' first innings.

This year was the 26-year-old's first full season in county cricket and he took 37 wickets at an average of 34.05 in the LV= Championship.

"I am hugely grateful to the Supporters Club for donating this money to help me get to India," said Brooks about the donation. "I hope this trip will prove to be massively beneficial to my career."

Chief executive Mark Tagg added: "It is fantastic that our supporters can see the benefits that this opportunity will bring to Jack and I am sure that we will all see the results over the next few seasons."

■Northants wicketkeeper Niall O'Brien has been named in Ireland's provisional 22-man squad for next year's Cricket World Cup, which starts in February.

O'Brien was a member of the side that caused an upset at the last tournament in 2007 by reaching the Super Eights, scoring 72 and earning man-of-the-match honours in their three wicket victory over Pakistan.

Ireland are in Group B alongside two of the three joint hosts in Bangladesh and India. They will also face England, the Netherlands, South Africa and the West Indies.

Wilson praises pack for keeping Saints moving

BY MARC BAZELEY
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RYAN Powell rates them as the best pack he has ever played behind, while Cardiff Blues head coach Dai Young believes they have the best scrum in Europe.

There can be no doubt that the Northampton Saints forwards have become a respected and feared unit under the stewardship of Jim Mallinder and his right hand man Dorian West.

Take the two recent Heineken Cup encounters with Cardiff Blues, particularly last Sunday's 23-19 triumph where a brutal destruction of the Welsh side's set piece contributed to a crucial win.

Playing at number eight, Roger Wilson is an integral part of making sure everything goes to plan when the sides pack down.

He has been impressed by the work of the front row of Soane Tonga'uiha, Dylan Hartley and Brian Mujati, although has warned that Northampton must now start to match those efforts in every aspect of the game.

"They've put their hands up pretty much every game, but we don't want to become over-reliant on the scrum," said Wilson.

"Maybe you could say the scrum got us out of a bit of difficulty (against Cardiff) and if it hadn't been so dominant then maybe the result might have been a little different.

"But as long as they keep playing well then they'll keep other areas of the game going well.

"In the two games against Cardiff, we've been a little bit disappointed with our overall game. Scrummage-wise, all season it has been good but we definitely want our overall play to be better than it has been."

With two games left in Pool One, Northampton sit in first place and on Boxing Day they set about defending top spot in the Aviva Premiership when they travel to the intimidating surroundings of Kingsholm to face Gloucester.

Like the Saints, Brian Redpath's side have an imperious home record having won all 13 matches on their own turf in the league to go with their recent good form that has seen them climb into contention for the play-offs.

However, they slipped up against French side La Rochelle in the Amlin Challenge Cup last weekend, while the Cherry and Whites pack have struggled at the scrum all season.

They have lost more than any other team in the league (20), while also winning the fewest (57) and can be sure that the Saints front eight will show no mercy.

This is the first of two potentially tricky away games for Northampton over the next three weeks, with a trip to East Midlands rivals and defending champions Leicester Tigers coming up on Saturday, January 8.

The following week they resume their Heineken Cup campaign at home to Edinburgh where, depending on other results, they could seal a home quarter final.

Wilson said: "We don't want to look too far ahead, but at the moment we're four out of four in this competition. It's a very good effort so far and we're very happy with things."

DRIVING FORWARD: Roger Wilson in action for Northampton against Wasps

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